Claims:

1. In a communications device coupled for communication in a communications network, a method of translating a portion of a text-based communication for communicating in the communications network comprising:

determining a portion of text to be translated;

obtaining a replacement for the portion of text from a translation service coupled to the communications device, the translation service translating the portion of text from a first language to a second language; and

replacing the portion with the replacement.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the portion is indicated by at least one trigger symbol adjacent the portion and wherein the step of determining comprises monitoring the composing of the text-based communication for the at least one trigger symbol.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining comprises:

transmitting a query to the translation service, the query comprising the portion of text; and

receiving a response from the translation service, the response comprising the replacement.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said transmitting and said receiving comprise respectively communicating said query and

said response in accordance with a wireless communication protocol.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said replacing comprises confirming the replacement.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein confirming the replacement comprises obtaining at least one alternative replacement from said translation service and wherein said replacing comprises replacing using a one of the at least one alternative replacement.

7. The method of claim 1 comprising maintaining a store of portions of text and respective replacements on said communications device; and using said store to determine the replacement.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said portions of text and respective replacements are defined by prior translations performed using the communications device.

9. A system for translating a text-based communication for communicating in a communications network, the system comprising:

a translation service coupled to the communications network, the translation service adapted to translate a portion of text in a first language to a replacement for the portion in a second language in response to a query comprising the portion;

and

a communications device coupled to the communications network for communicating text-based communications, said communications device adapted to obtain from the translation service a replacement for a portion of text of a text-based communication and to replace the portion with the replacement obtained.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein the communications network comprises a wireless communications network and wherein the communications device is coupled for wireless communications to the communications network.

11. The system of claim 9 wherein the communications device comprises a translation component adapted to obtain the replacement in response to a trigger symbol identifying the portion of text.

12. A mobile device for wirelessly communicating text-based communications in a communications network, the mobile device comprising:

a composition component to compose text for communicating wirelessly in a text-based communication; and

a translation component to replace a portion of the text in a first language with a replacement in a second language for communicating in the text-based communication, said translation component obtaining the replacement from a translation service coupled to the mobile device.

13. The mobile device of claim 12 comprising a monitoring component to monitor the text during a composing of text to determine the portion to be replaced.

14. The mobile device of claim 13 wherein the monitoring component monitors the text for at least one trigger symbol adjacent the portion to determine the portion.

15. The mobile device of claim 12 wherein the translation component comprises a user interface to confirm the replacement to replace the portion.

16. The mobile device of claim 13 wherein the translation component is adapted to obtain at least one alternative replacement from said translation service and wherein said user interface is adapted to confirm a one of the at least one alternative replacement to replace the portion.

17. A translation server providing a translation service to a communications network, the server comprising:

a receiving component for receiving a query request from a communications device for translating a portion of text of a text-based message for communicating by the communications device in the communications network;

a translating component for translating the portion of text in a first language to a replacement for the portion in a second language; and

a transmitting component for transmitting a response including the replacement to the communications device

for replacing the portion of text in the text-based message.

18. The translation server of claim 17 comprising a memory module for storing the response.

19. The translation server of claim 17 wherein the translation component determines at least one alternative replacement in response to the query request and wherein the transmitting component transmits the response including the at least one alternative replacement.